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61-6852

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

[redacted] 25X1

Auth/Fpc

3 August 1961

[redacted] 25X1

Chief, FBIS

[redacted] 25X1

Washington 13, D.C.

Dear [redacted] Subject: Visit to Bureau - Edward R. Murrow 25X1

As you know, the State Department Regional Operations Conference is taking place [redacted] I plan for next week's pouch a full report on our part in the activities, but this earlier report on Mr. Murrow's visit to the Station may be in order, I believe. 25X1

When the conference was first discussed at a Country Team meeting, the Ambassador suggested that FBIS coordinate with the Public Affairs Officer in entertaining the USIA participants. Out of this planning with Bill Smith, the PAO, it was agreed we would, on Sunday afternoon, take care of all USIA people who had arrived by that time, one of whom would be Mr. Murrow.

[redacted] 25X1

Mr. Murrow was already familiar with the FBIS wire, the Daily Report, and RPB's publications. As he sat down, he said, "Your organization is absolutely indispensable."

While I was talking about coverage, the BBC arrangement, home versus overseas casts and the like, Mr. Murrow said he was particularly interested in RPB's comparisons of Moscow's handling of international affairs on its home, as opposed to its foreign, broadcasts. He said he had recently won a White House argument by using RPB's reports of Moscow's treatment of the Berlin question on its internal casts.

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He contended that Khrushchev had not committed his own prestige with his own people on the Berlin issue to anything like the degree he had done in 1958, and he used an RPB product to prove his contention.

Later Mr. Murrow said that he had "bootlegged" our stuff for years but now it was nice to be using it legally - "absolutely indispensable" as it is.

As we walked over to the house, I told him, because he had spoken of his contacts with Congress in his job as head of USIA, of an idea I had once had of our preparing for delivery to congressmen a daily resume of what the Communists were saying about matters before Congress. He said he had in mind something like this to be produced weekly.

While the group, by now about 25 people, were having drinks on our front porch [redacted] 25X1
Mr. Murrow recounted some excellent anecdotes about "Satchmo" as a goodwill ambassador, and about a bottle Satchmo had given him in "retaliation" for past courtesies.

[redacted] 25X1

We all enjoyed the visit very much indeed, and Mr. Murrow stayed beyond his prearranged time of departure - whether because he liked the drinks, the conversation, or the breeze I do not know.

Sincerely,

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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